"technologies" of power. Yet he never fully explains his conception of technology as it relates to power. It is certainly true, as he points out, that torture and imprisonment are differing modes of punishment, and that imprisonment as a mode encompasses some goals which were not contemplated by torture. But his complicated analysis of these kinds of differences in terms of "technology" confuses more than it clarifies, and seems to be an artificial imposition of an analytical "scheme" when it is unnecessary. His second major argument, that "scientific" conceptions of crime do not reflect greater penal leniency and can mask insidious uses of power, has been made with greater clarity and force by a number of writers, notably Nicholas Kittrie and Thomas Szasz. Ironically, the section of the book that is argued best, dealing with torture, is the least essential to the establishment of his thesis.

This is not an easy book to read, in part because of its use of language. For instance, Foucault uses words such as "body" and "anatomy" literally in some instances, metaphorically in others, as he explains his varying technologies. He also invents jargon in places, coining terms such as "micro-physics of the body" and "infra-law." Moreover, while the book itself contains much raw data, it presumes a familiarity with the history of French penal methods and penal ideology generally.

This book is not so much an attempt to communicate or interpret French penal history as it is an attempt to devise an intellectual framework for evaluation of the development of Western penal methods and the exercise of power generally. However, the framework advanced is itself so complex and esoteric that the reader's energy is absorbed in trying to grasp *it*, to the exclusion of the subject matter. Ultimately the reader learns more about Foucault's rules for analysis than about the birth of the prison.

Readers with some background in this subject may welcome Foucault's reflections and model for studying the prison and similar institutions. Readers seeking an introduction to prisons and their evolution are advised to seek a more conventional treatment. ●

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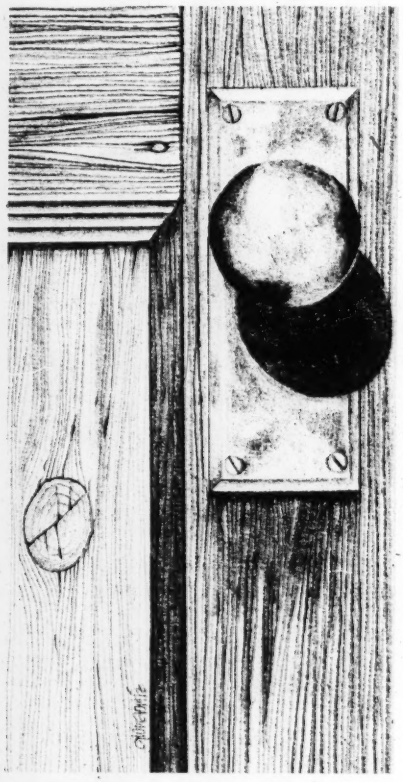
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